In response to the Office Action dated April 19, 2006, Applicant notes with

appreciation the withdrawal of the previous grounds of rejection and the indication

that claims 1-13 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The Office Action states

that claim 1 does not recite a tangible result. To remove the basis for this rejection,

claim 1 has been amended to recite that the result of the claimed steps is applied to

a cryptographic operation. It is respectfully submitted that the claim recites a

practical, tangible result, and therefore complies with 35 U.S.C. § 101, as interpreted

by the Patent and Trademark Office.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of all pending

claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 21, 2006

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